THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Conveened at EDINBURGH, the 22. Day of *May* 1766.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by ROBERT FLEMING Printer to the Church of *Scotland.* M,DCC,LXVI.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

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General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 22d Day of *May* 1766, and concluded the 2d Day of *June* said Year.

I.

The King's Commission to *John* Earl of *Glasgow* produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, 22d *May* 1766.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being conveened and constituted, there was produced to them by the Right Honourable JOHN Earl of GLASGOW, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him His Majesty's High Commissioner

ſioner and Repreſentative in this Aſſembly; of the ſame Tenor with the Commiſſion granted to his Lordſhip laſt Year: Which Commiſſion was publicly read, with all due Honour and Reſpect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Aſſembly.

II.

The King's moſt Gracious Letter to the General Aſſembly, preſented to them by His Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

Edinburgh, 22d *May* 1766.

Supraſcribitur, GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and Well beloved, We greet you well. The repeated Proofs We have received of your Affection and Loyalty to Our Perſon and Government, as well as of your zealous Regard to the Intereſts of Religion and Virtue, give Us the greateſt Confidence of your continuing in the ſame pious and dutiful Sentiments; and it is therefore with much Satisfaction We now repeat to you the Aſſurance of Our Will and Reſolution to ſupport the Preſbyterian Church of *Scotland* in the Enjoyment of all its Rights and Privileges, and of Our Diſpoſition to countenance the General Aſſemblies of that Church with Our Favour and Authority, as on all other Occaſions, ſo particularly on this of their preſent Meeting. We doubt not but you bring with you to this your Aſſembly ſo ſincere a Concern for the Advancement of Piety and true Morality, as will direct all your Counſels to the general good of Mankind; and that your Zeal for theſe laudable Purpoſes will be ſo tempered with Candour and Moderation, as may beſt contribute to the Succeſs of your pious Endeavours; for the promoting of which you may aſſure yourſelves of My firm and hearty Concurrence.

Your Attention to diſcover any ſecret Practices that may be carrying on for the Increaſe of Popery, will need no other Call to awaken it but the Conſideration of the many Bleſſings you enjoy under the preſent happy Eſtabliſhment of religious as well as civil Liberty. To infuſe into the Minds of the People the ſame juſt Senſe of their Happineſs, and to preſent before them the fatal Conſequences of liſten-

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ing to any Perſon who may wiſh to ſow the Seeds of Diſſenſion among them, as it may be the moſt effectual Means to prevent and fruſtrate ſuch evil Deſigns, ſo We truſt it will become one of the principal Objects of your Endeavours.

We have made choice of Our Right Truſty and Right Well-beloved Couſin JOHN Earl of GLASGOW to be Our Commiſſioner, and to repreſent Our Perſon in this Aſſembly; who, from his known Zeal for Our Service, his firm Adherence to the true Intereſt of his Country, and the Fidelity and Prudence with which he has already diſcharged this important Truſt, We are perſuaded will be acceptable to you. We promiſe Ourſelves that nothing will be wanting on your Part, that may tend to the Advancement of Religion and Piety, and to the attaining thoſe good Ends for which you are at this Time aſſembled. And ſo We bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at St *James*'s the 26th Day of *April* 1766, and in the 6th Year of Our Reign.

By His Majeſty's Command,

(Signed) GRAFTON.

III.

The General Aſſembly's Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

WE received Your Majeſty's moſt gracious Letter with the higheſt Reſpect, and with cordial Gratitude for this renewed Proof of Your Royal Favour.

The Aſſurance You are pleaſed to give us of Your Will and Reſolution to ſupport the Church of *Scotland* in the Enjoyment of all its Rights and Privileges, and the Expreſſions of Your Majeſty's Confidence in the Affection and Loyalty of this Church to Your Royal Perſon and Government, afford us the higheſt Satisfaction.

Under the auſpicious Protection of a Prince, zealous for the Intereſts of Religion and Virtue, we ſhould be left without Excuſe, if we did not ſtrenuouſly exert ourſelves in promoting theſe great Intereſts, in a Manner that becometh dutiful Subjects to Your Majeſty, and the faithful Servants of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

As it hath been our conſtant Endeavour to oppoſe the Deſigns of thoſe who are avowed Enemies to our religious and civil Liberties, and to ſuppreſs the Growth of Popery, ſo it ſhall be our Buſineſs to be attentive to diſcover any ſecret Practices that may be carrying on by the Emiſſaries of *Rome*, to counteract their artful Contrivances, and to fruſtrate their ſeditious and wicked Purpoſes. Animated with a juſt and lively Senſe of the Importance and Excellency of the Bleſſings we enjoy under the preſent happy Eſtabliſhment, it ſhall be our unwearied Care, to infuſe the ſame Sentiments into the Minds of thoſe under our Inſpection, and to guard them againſt the Deluſions of an idolatrous Superſtition, equally contrary to the Word of GOD, and to the noble Conſtitution of Government under which we are placed.

We thankfully acknowledge your Majeſty's Royal Donation for promoting Chriſtian Knowledge in the *Highlands* and *Iſlands* of *Scotland;* and we will be careful to apply it in ſuch Manner as may moſt effectually contribute to the Accompliſhment of Your Majeſty's pious and charitable Intention.

The approved Zeal of the Earl of *Glaſgow* in Your Majeſty's Service; our Experience of his Abilities for the Diſcharge of ſo high a Truſt; his exemplary Regard to Religion; his warm Affection for this Church, and his many amiable and chriſtian Virtues, make Your Majeſty's Choice of him to repreſent Your Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly moſt acceptable to this whole Church.

That ALMIGHTY GOD may eſtabliſh Your Throne in Righteouſneſs, and in the Hearts of Your Subjects; That he may long preſerve Your Majeſty, the Guardian of Liberty, and Pattern of Piety and Virtue, to Your People; That he may pour down his Heavenly Bleſſings on Your Royal Conſort, our moſt gracious Queen; That the Divine Favour may ever attend His Royal Highneſs the Prince of *Wales*, and all Your Royal Family; That Your Deſcendants may to lateſt Ages reign over a free and loyal People, and that, after a long and happy Life on Earth, you may enjoy the Glorious Crown of Immortality,

ty, thro' JESUS CHRIST Our LORD. These are, and ever shall be, the earnest Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Name, in our Presence, and at our Appointment, by

Edin. 24th *May* 1766. JOHN HAMILTON, Moderator.

IV.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, and for managing His Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, 3*d June* 1766. *Sess.* 11.

THE General Assembly do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Mr *John Hamilton* one of the Ministers of the City of *Glasgow*, their Moderator, Mr *John Glen*, Dr *Patrick Cuming*, Dr *Alexander Webster*, Mr *Alexander Brice* at *Kirknewton*, Mr *Robert Fisher* at *Collington*, Mr *James Craig* at *Currie*, Dr *William Robertson* Principal, Dr *Robert Hamilton* Professor of Divinity, Dr *Hugh Blair* Professor of Rhetorick, Dr *Robert Wallace*, Dr *George Wishart*, Mr *Robert Walker*, Mr *David Plenderleith*, Dr *Daniel M'Queen*, Mr *John Erskine*, Mr *Alexander Stewart*, Dr *John Drysdale*, Mr *Hary Lundie*, Dr *Robert Dick*, Ministers, Members of the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*; Dr *James Oswald* Minister at *Methven*, Mr *James Muirison* Principal of the New College of St *Andrews*, Mr *Thomas Tullideph* Principal of the United Colleges there, Mr *Laurence*

Laurence Hill of the Barony Pariſh of *Glaſgow*, Mr *Colin Campbell* at *Kilmarnock*, Mr *Adam Ferguſon* at *Moulin*, Mr *James Stewart* at *Killin*, Mr *James Stewart* at *Dull*, Mr *Thomas Randale* at *Inchture*, Mr *James Lindſay* at *Kirkliſton*, Mr *Archbald Stevenſon* at St *Madoes*, Mr *David Smith* at *Innerwick*, Mr *Charles Nisbet* at *Montroſe*, Mr *George Trail* at *Dunnet*, Mr *Martin M'Pherſon* at *Slate*, Mr *John Lumiſden* at *Strathdon*, Mr *James Scot* at *Muthel*, Mr *David Blair* at *Brechin*, Mr *David Hunter* at St *Andrews*, Mr *Alexander Scot* at *Meigle*, Mr *John Robertſon* at *Alyth*, Mr *James Munro* at *Cromarty*, Dr *John Ogilvy* at *Midmar*, Mr *John Touch* at *Mortlach*, Mr *Malcolm Nicholſon* at *Kiltarlety*, Mr *David Imrie* at St. *Mungo*, Mr *John Freebairn* at *Dunbarton*, Dr *John Walker* at *Moffat*, Mr *Duncan M'Farlane* at *Drymen*, Mr *Hector* M'*Phail* at *Kilmichael*, Mr *James Robertſon* at *Lochbroom*, Miniſters; the Right Honourable the Lord Preſident, the Right Honourable the Lord Juſtice Clerk, *James Montgomery* Eſq; Lord Advocate, Mr *Henry Dundaſs* Sollicitor, the Procurator, Mr *Coſmo Gordon* Advocate, Mr *Alexander Wight* Advocate, Mr *Robert Sinclair* Advocate, Mr *Andrew Crosbie* Advocate, *Alexander Robertſon* of *Straloch* Eſq; Mr *Albert Munro* of *Coull*, Bailie *James Gentle*, Mr *Archibald Wallace* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Mr *James Fleming* Advocate, Mr *John Anderſon* Profeſſor of Natural Philoſophy at *Glaſgow*, Mr *William Galloway* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, *John Buchan* of *Lethem* Eſq; *George Hepburn* of *Smeiton* Eſq; the Right Honourable the Lord Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, the Honourable *John Home* Eſq; Lord Conſervator, Mr *John Chalmers* Writer to the Signet, Dr *Matthew Stewart*, Bailie *William Sands* Bookſeller in *Edinburgh*, Mr *William* M'*Donald* Writer, Mr *Iſaac Grant* Writer, Sir *James Colquhoun* of *Luſs*, Dr *Gregory Grant*, Mr *StClair* of *Ulbſter*, Mr *Alexander Orr* Writer, and Bailie *John Walker* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Aſſembly, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Iſlands* of *Scotland*, for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, ſuppreſſing Popery and Prophaneneſs, and for managing the Royal Bounty given for theſe Ends, according to, and in Terms of His Majeſty's Grant to this Aſſembly. In Proſecution of which Purpoſes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechiſts to go to ſuch Places as they ſhall find, upon due Information, to be moſt proper, according to His Majeſty's Deſign expreſſed in his Warrant; and, in ſo doing, that they have particular Regard to ſuch Pariſhes in *South-Uiſt*, *Small-Iſles*, *Glenco*, *Harris*, the Counties of *Moidart*, *Glengairie*, and *Lochaber*, and the other Pariſhes of the Synods of *Glenelg* and *Argyle*, which the Committee ſhall find, by Reaſon of their vaſt Extent,

Extent, the Prevalency of Popery and Ignorance, and other unhappy Circumstances, to be in the greatest Distress: And they shall take Care, that the Persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due Trial, to be properly qualified for these respective Offices, of good Abilities for the same, of a pious Life and Conversation, prudent, of undoubted Loyalty to His Majesty, and of competent Skill in the Principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish Controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the Inspection of, the Presbyteries of the Bounds to which they are sent, who are to take Care that the Orders of the Committee be duly observed by them: And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise; and both they and the Catechists to instruct the People from House to House, and to visit the Sick: And, in all their Labours among the People, to be careful to teach them the Principles and Duties of the true Christian Protestant Religion, and the Obligations they are under to Duty and Loyalty to our Sovereign King *George*, and Obedience to the Laws: And the Committee are impowered to give them such Instructions, as to their Work and Behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which Instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular Regard in their Proceedings to the Regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th Day of *September* 1730, approven by subsequent Assemblies; and to take Care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their Registers, the Committee's Appointments of the Designations, Salaries, and Stations of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact Regard thereto, in all the Letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of Certificates to them; and to direct all their Letters concerning Missionaries in their Bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which Letters shall be signed, at the Appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any Payments to be made of the Salaries of the Missionaries, except upon Receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon Certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing that they have served for the Time mentioned in the Receipts. The General Assembly do also impower the said Committee to apply, for the Purposes above-mentioned, what may remain of the last Year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by Reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the Ap-

pointments laid upon them: And they are to keep a Regiſter of their Proceedings, and likewiſe diſtinct Books of Accompts, how the foreſaid Money is beſtowed, which ſhall be patent to any concerned, who pleaſe to inſpect the ſame. Of the Perſons above named as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a *Quorum*, whereof three are to be Miniſters. But it is hereby appointed, that at the Quarterly Meeting of the Committee, in which the Scheme or Eſtabliſhment of Miſſionaries for the enſuing Year is to be approved and determined, not leſs than fourteen ſhall be the *Quorum*, whereof nine ſhall be Miniſters, and the ſaid Committee are appointed to have their Meetings at *Edinburgh*, in the Hall of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, the laſt *Thurſday* of every Month, at four of the Clock Afternoon, and alſo the firſt lawful Day after the Adjournment of the four ſtated Diets of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, except that Day ſhall fall to be *Saturday*, and then the Meeting ſhall be upon *Monday* next thereafter, at the ſaid Hour; with Power to the ſaid Committee to adjourn themſelves to ſuch Times and Places, as they ſhall find moſt needful and convenient: And they are to keep a Correſpondence with the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, and the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their Advice and Aſſiſtance; and alſo to correſpond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewiſe inſtructed and impowered, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, to apply to the Government, or any Magiſtrate, for Aſſiſtance and Support in carrying on the Deſign of the Commiſſion now given to them. And the General Aſſembly do by theſe Preſents nominate and appoint Mr *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the ſame as he ſhall be directed and ordered by the ſaid Committee, and according to their Rules. And the ſaid Committee are appointed to examine the Accompts of the Diſtribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of His Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their Diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, that no Perſon once employed and inſert in the Scheme, ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that Year, but by the *Quorum* of at leaſt fourteen, whereof nine to be Miniſters; and in Caſe any Complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the Scheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary Meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall ly on the Table

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till another Meeting; and, in the mean Time, the Perſon complained of, and the Presbytery of the Bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch Complaint, and theſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid Committee a juſt Account of the Matter, againſt their next Meeting. And it is further appointed, that after the yearly Scheme of Miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty is ſettled in Manner above directed, and Notice thereof given by Letters to the Presbyteries concerned, ſuch Presbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid Committee their Anſwers to theſe Letters, at fartheſt with their Commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the Committee, at their firſt Meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to compleat the next Year's Scheme themſelves; and if they cannot compleat it, that they ſhall name a Sub-committee of their Number for that Purpoſe, who are to lay their Draught thereof before a ſubſequent Meeting, which are appointed to meet as ſoon after the Riſing of the Aſſembly as poſſible: And that the ſaid Committee, in making up the Scheme of Miſſionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the Sum in the Grant.

V.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders for diſcuſſing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Aſſembly conſidering, that there are divers Affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commiſſionate, and appoint the Reverend Mr John Hamilton one of the Miniſters of the City of *Glaſgow* their Moderator: And from the Presbytery of *Dornock*, Mr Martin M'Pherſon at *Golſpie*, Mr George M'Culloch at *Lath*, Miniſters; and Alexander Gray of *Overskibo* Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Dornock*, Mr John Moſsman Merchant in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Caithneſs*, Mr Alexander Nicolſon at *Thurſo*, Mr George Traill

Traill at *Dunnet*, Miniſters; and George Sinclair of *Ulbſter* Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkwall*, Mr Hugh Sutherland at *Kirkwall*, Mr Hugh Mouat at *Evie*, Miniſters; and Mr John Tod Ship Carpenter in *Leith*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Kirkwall*, Patrick Græme of *Græme's hall* Eſq; From the Presbytery of *North Iſles*, Mr Alexander Pitcairn at *Shapinſhay*, Mr James Leſely at *Rouſay*, Miniſters; and Mr Charles Sheriff Merchant in *Leith*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Mr John Glen, Dr Patrick Cumming, Dr Alexander Webſter, Mr Alexander Brice at *Kirk Newton*, Mr Robert Fiſher at *Collington*, Mr James Craig at *Currie*, Miniſters; Mr William Alexander Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Mr John Haddoway Merchant in *Leith*, and Bailie John Carmichael, one of the preſent Bailies of *Edinburgh*: From the City of *Edinburgh*, the Right Honourable the Lord Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, and Mr Thomas Simpſon firſt Trades Counſellor: From the Univerſity of *Edinburgh*, Dr William Robertſon Principal of the Univerſity there: From the Church of *Campvere*, the Honourable John Home Eſq; Lord Conſervator: From the Presbytery of *Linlithgow*, Mr James Naeſmith at *Dalmenie*, Mr Charles Wilkie at *Ecclesmachin*, Mr James Lindſay at *Kirkliſton*, Mr John Knox at *Slamannan*, Miniſters; Lord Napier, and Thomas Hogg younger of *Newliſton*, Ruling Elders: From the Burgh of *Linlithgow*, Mr James Moriſon Deacon of the Shoemakers: From the Burgh of *Queensferry*, Mr Walter Scot Merchant in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Biggar*, Mr William Tait at *Kilbucho*, Mr William Howe at *Skirling*, Mr Andrew Plummer at *Broughton*, Miniſters; and Mr Robert Steel Tenant in *Kilbucho*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Peebles*, Mr Thomas Findlater at *Linton*, Mr John Baird at *Stobo*, Miniſters; and James Montgomery Eſq; Lord Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Peebles*, Mr Alexander Murray Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dalkeith*, Mr John Murray at *Heriot*, Mr Henry Grieve at *Dalkeith*, Mr John Gourlay at *Fala*, Miniſters; and the Right Honourable the Lord Preſident, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Haddington*, Mr Archibald Blair at *Garvet*, Mr George Anderſon at *Pancaitland*, Mr James Roy at *Preſtonpans*, Miniſters; and William Law of *Elvingſton* Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Haddington*, John Buchan of *Lethem* Eſq; From the Burgh of *North-Berwick*, Captain Robert Stair Dalrymple: From the Presbytery of *Dunbar*, Mr David Smith at *Innerwick*, Mr Abraham Home at *Whitinghame*, Miniſters; and George Hepburn of *Smeiton* Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Dunbar*, Richard Anderſon Eſq; of *Winterfield*: From the Presbytery of *Dunſe*,

Mr

Mr Robert Douglas at *Buncle*, Mr Adam Murray at *Abbay* St *Bathans*, Miniſters; and Robert Hepburn Eſq; of *Clerkington*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Chirnſide*, Mr John Waugh at *Whitſome*, Mr George Cupples at *Swinton*, Miniſters; and Sir John Stewart of *Allan-Bank*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kelſo*, Mr Joſeph Laick at *Yetholme*, Mr David Dickſon at *Ednam*, Miniſters; and Mr Henry Dundas His Majeſty's Sollicitor, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Jedburgh*, Mr John Rogers at *Hownam*, Mr William Paton at *Eckford*, Mr William Scot at *Abbotrule*, Miniſters; and Mr John Heron in *Eckford-moſs*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Earlſtoun*, Mr John Bell at *Gordon*, Mr Abraham Ker at *Nenthorn*, Miniſters; and Robert Kennedy of *Auchterfardle* Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Lauder*, the Right Honourable the Earl of *Lauderdale*: From the Presbytery of *Selkirk*, Mr James Lorimer at *Yarrow*, Mr John Adams at *Etterick*, Miniſters; and Lord Alemoor, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Selkirk*, Gideon Schaw of *Lawriſton* Eſq; From the Presbytery of *Annan*, Mr James Currie at *Middlebee*, Mr Thomas Smith at *Cummertrees*, Miniſters; and Mr Alexander Orr Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Annan*, Mr John Anderſon Profeſſor of Natural Philoſophy at *Glaſgow*: From the Presbytery of *Langholme*, Mr John Scotland at *Eskdale-muir*, Mr John Dickie at *Langholme*, Miniſters; and Mr John Craigie Chamberlain to his Grace the Duke of *Buccleugh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, Mr David Imrie at St *Mungo*, Mr Matthew Cleghorn at *Dryſdale*, Mr Joſeph Ferguſon at *Tundergarth*, Miniſters; and James Mounſay Eſq; of *Rammarskails*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Lochmaben*, Dr Colin Drummond Phyciſian in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Penpont*, Mr Peter Yorſtoun at *Cloſeburn*, Mr Thomas Wilſon at *Tynron*, Miniſters; and Mr Thomas Hunter in the Pariſh of *Tynron*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dumfries*, Mr Thomas Mutter at *Dumfries*, Mr John Marſhall at *Tinwall*, Mr Philip Moriſon at *Dunſcore*, Miniſters; and Mr Andrew Croſbie Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Dumfries*, John Dickſon of *Conheath* Eſq; preſent Provoſt: From the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr Robert Coupar at *Girthon*, Mr John Scot at *Twynholme*, Mr David Blenſhall at *Balmaghie*, Miniſters; and Mr Robert Ramſay in *Murraytown*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Wigtown*, Mr Ebenezer Stot at *Minnigaff*, Mr John Hart at *Kirkinner*, Miniſters; Mr Archibald Wallace Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Wigtown*, Mr Thomas Halladay Preacher of the Goſpel: From the Burgh of *Whithorn*, Mr James Wilkie Merchant

in *Edinburgh:* From the Presbytery of *Stranrawer*, Mr John Dickſon at *Newluce*, Mr James Mochrie at *Colmonell*, Miniſters; and Dr Robert Finlay of *Drummore*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Stranrawer*, Mr Patrick M'Dougal Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Air*, Mr William Auld at *Mauchline*, Mr James Connel at *Lorn*, Mr John Dun at *Auchinleck*, Mr George Muir at Cumnock, Mr Alexander Moodie at *Riccarton*, Miniſters; the Right Honourable the Lord Juſtice Clerk, and Mr James Stevenſon Rogers Advocate, Ruling Elders: From the Burgh of *Air*, Mr John Chalmer Writer to the Signet: From the Presbytery of *Irvine*, Mr William Coats at *Kilmaurs*, Mr Gilbert Lang at *Largs*, Mr George Lawrie at *Loudon*, Miniſters; and the Honourable Patrick Boyle of *Shewalton* Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Renfrew*, Mr Ila Campbell Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, Mr Robert Bell at *Strathaven*, Mr James Baillie at *Bothwell*, Mr John Riſk at *Dalſerf*, Miniſters; and Mr Robert Sinclair Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lanerk*, Mr John Kingan at *Crawfurd*, Mr David Carmichael at *Pitteñain*, Mr Thomas Linning at *Leſmahagoe*, Miniſters; and Mr George Irvine of *Newton* Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Lanerk*, Mr Alexander Wight Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Glaſgow*, Mr Laurence Hill of the Barony Pariſh of *Glaſgow*, Mr John Erskine at *Glaſgow*, Mr James Stoddart at *Kirkintilloch*, Miniſters; and Archibald Ingram Eſq; late Provoſt of *Glaſgow*, Ruling Elder: From the City of *Glaſgow*, Provoſt John Bowman: From the Univerſity of *Glaſgow*, Doctor James Williamſon Profeſſor of Mathematics: From the Presbytery of *Dumbarton*, Mr Colin Campbell at *Kilmaronock*, Mr James Moriſon at *Killearn*, Mr John Freebairn at *Dumbarton*, Miniſters; and Sir James Colquhoun of *Luſs*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Dumbarton*, Mr James Flint one of the Bailies of *Dumbarton*: From the Burgh of *Rothſay*, Dr Mathew Stewart: From the Presbytery of *Kintyre*, Mr George Robertſon at *Campbleton*, Mr Archibald M'Neil at *Clachan*, Miniſters; and Alexander M'Millan of *Dunmore* Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lorn*, Mr William Campbell at *Kilchrenan*, Mr Joſeph M'Intyre at *Glenorchay*, Miniſters; and the Right Honourable the Lord *Stonefield*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Mull*, Mr Archibald M'Taviſh at *Toroſay*, Mr Charles Campbell at *Tyrie*, Miniſters; and Mr Allan M'Dougal Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, Mr Adam Ferguſon at *Moulin*, Mr James Stewart at *Killin*, Mr Thomas Biſſet at *Logierait*, Mr James Stewart at *Dull*, Miniſters; Alexander Robertſon of *Straloch* Eſq; and Mr James Fleeming Advocate,

Advocate, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Perth*, Dr James Oswald at *Methven*, Mr John Faichney at *Collace*, Mr George Chapman at *Kinfauns*, Mr Archibald Stevenson at St *Madoes*, Ministers; Adam Frier Esq; of *Innernethy*, and John Robertson Esq; of *Tullibelton*, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Stirling*, Mr Lauchlan Taylor at *Larbert*, Mr James Frame at *Alloa*, Ministers, and Lord Barjarg, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, Mr James Scot at *Muthill*, Mr James Reid at *Trinity-Gask*, Mr Alexander Smith at *Dunning*, Ministers; and Bailie James Gentle, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dumblane*, Mr James Smith at *Killmadock*, Mr John Robertson at *Dumblane*, Ministers; and Captain John Campbell of *Kilpunt*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunfermline*, Mr David Hunter at *Saline*, Mr Alexander Daling at *Cleish*, Mr John Spence at *Orwell*, Ministers; and Sir George Preston of *Valleyfield*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Dunfermline*, Mr John Lindsay late Conveener of the Trades of *Edinburgh*: From the Burgh of *Culross*, Bailie Robert Geddes, Merchant in *Culross*: From the Presbytery of *Kirkaldy*, Dr Hary Spence at *Wemyss*, Mr Patrick Muirhead at *Dysart*, Mr Thomas Webster at *Kinghorn*, Ministers; and Mr Andrew Balfour Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Kirkaldy*, Provost John Currie: From the Presbytery of *Cupar*, Mr James Bruce at *Dunbog*, Mr George Lyon at *Strathmieglo*, Mr David Burn at *Moonzie*, Mr Charles Wilson at *Auchtermuchty*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Leven*, and Andrew Barclay of *Pittachop* Esq; Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of St *Andrews*, Mr James Murison Principal of the New College, Mr Patrick Glass at *Craill*, Mr John Mair at *Cameron*, Mr David Hunter at St *Andrews*, Ministers; John M'Naughton Esq; and Mr John Lamont, Ruling Elders: From the University of St *Andrews*, Principal Tullideph: From the Burgh of *Pittenweem*, James Dudingston of St *Foord* Esq; From the Burgh of *Craill*, John Gillis Bailie: From the Burgh of *Anstruther-Easter*, James Durham of *Largo* Esq; From the Burgh of *Kilrennie*, Bailie John Walker Merchant in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Meigle*, Mr John Robertson at *Alyth*, Mr Alexander Scot at *Meigle*, Mr James Spankie at *Cupar*, Ministers; and Mr Murray of *Lintrose*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Forfar*, Mr Thomas Raiker at *Ochlaw*, Dr John Ker at *Forfar*, Ministers; and George Dempster Esq; Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Forfar*, Mr John Adam: From the Presbytery of *Dundee*, Mr Thomas Randale at *Inchture*, Mr William Bisset at *Dundee*, Mr John Gellatly at *Tealing*, Ministers; and Bailie John

John Pitcairn, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Dundee*, Bailie Patrick Maxwell: From the Presbytery of *Aberbrothock*, Mr Robert Traill at *Panbride*, Mr Thomas Hunter at *Arbirlot*, Miniſters; the Honourable Baron Maule, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Brechin*, Mr David Blair at *Brechin*, Mr William Cruden at *Logier-Port*, Mr Charles Niſbet at *Montroſe*, Miniſters; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Northesk*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Fordoun*, Mr Alexander Shank at *Arbuthnot*, Mr Alexander Shank at *Ecclesgreig*, Mr David Forbes at *Laurence-Kirk*, Miniſters; and Mr William Galloway Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kincardine O-Niel*, Mr John Abel at *Echt*, Dr John Ogilvy at *Midmar*, Mr John Ramſay at *Lumphannan*, Miniſters; and Sir Arthur Forbes, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Alford*, Mr John Lumsden at *Strathdon*, Mr William Duff at *Glenbucket*, Mr James Gordon at *Calrachin*, Miniſters; and Mr John Duncan, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Ellon*, Mr John Roſs at *Logie*, Mr George Adams at *Udney*, Miniſters; and Mr John Polſon in *Forvern*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Garioch*, Mr John Likely at *Oldmeldrum*, Mr Thomas Shepherd at *Bourtie*, Mr John Biſſet at *Culſamond*, Miniſters; and the Procurator, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Inverary*, Mr John Clerk Merchant in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Fordyce*, Mr James Dunbar at *Boyndie*, Mr Robert Grant at *Cullen*, Miniſters; and Mr John Robertſon Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Cullen*, the Honourable Charles Hope-Weir of *Craigiehall*: From the Burgh of *Banff*, Mr John Dalrymple Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Strathbogie*, Mr John Touch at *Mortlach*, Mr John Coupar at *Glaſs*, Miniſters; and Mr Coſmo Gordon Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberlour*, Mr James Grant at *Inveraven*, Mr James Thomſon at *Aberlour*, Miniſters; and Mr Iſaac Grant Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Abernethy*, Mr Patrick Grant at *Cromdale*, Mr John Grant at *Abernethy*, Miniſters; and Dr Gregory Grant, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Elgin*, Mr David Sampſon Factor to the Earl of *Hopetoun*: From the Presbytery of *Forres*, Mr Robert Dunbar at *Dyke*, Mr James Munro at *Kinloſs*, Miniſters; and Profeſſor Patrick Cumming in *Glaſgow*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Inverneſs*, Mr Malcolm Nicolſon at *Kiltarlety*, Mr Robert Roſe at *Inverneſs*, Miniſters; and Mr Alexander Campbell Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Chanonry*, Mr Hector M'Phail at *Kirkmichael*, Mr James Munro at *Cromarty*, Miniſters; and Profeſſor James Robertſon, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dingwall*, Mr John M'Lennan at

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Contin, Mr David Chisholme at *Kilmorack*, Ministers; and Mr Albert Munro of *Coull*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Abertarph*, Mr John Grant at *Urquhart*, Mr Alexander Fraser at *Killmalie*, Ministers; and Mr Colquhoun Grant Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Skye*, Mr Malcolm Maccaskile at *Short Isles*, Mr Martin M'Pherson at *Slate*, Ministers; and Mr John Pringle Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, Mr James Robertson at *Lochbroom*, Mr Donald M'Leod at *Glenelg*, Ministers; and Mr William M'Donald Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: To be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the Effect after-mentioned; with Power to the said Commissioners, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof Twenty-one are always to be Ministers, to meet and conveen within the Assembly-house at *Edinburgh*, the first Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon; and thereafter, the second *Wednesday* of *August*, third *Wednesday* of *November*, and the first *Wednesday* of *March* next to come, and oftner, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with Power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likeways, the General Assembly fully impowers their said Commissioners, or their *Quorum* above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly, and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the Interest of the Church on every Occasion, that the Church, and present Establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Providing always, that this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs, or Processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private Processes be determined, except at the four stated Diets; and what shall be determined at one Diet of the Commission, with Relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in Force 'till disapproven by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly in the Year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners before-named, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if

the ſame were ſpecially here inſert; and that they inquire into the publiſhing and ſpreading of Books and Pamphlets tending towards the promoting of Opinions of whatever Kind, inconſiſtent with our *Confeſſion of Faith*; and that the Recommenders of ſuch Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein contained, whether by Word, Writ, or Print, be called before the ſaid Commiſſion to anſwer for the ſame. And further, the ſaid Commiſſion is hereby impowered to receive any References and Appeals that ſhall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen ſuch Affairs for the next General Aſſembly; and to contribute what they can to the ſuppreſſing of Vice and Immorality, and give all needful Advice and Aſſiſtance to Synods and Preſbyteries, upon Application to them for that End: Likeways to take Care that the Impreſſions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confeſſion of Faith*, and *Catechiſms*, and ſuch Books as are authoriſed by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worſhip, Diſcipline, and Government thereof, be correct; and give Directions about printing the ſame. And the Commiſſioners are appointed and impowered to keep a Correſpondence with the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, for ſuppreſſing Popery and Superſtition, and for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, and carrying on a Reformation in theſe Parts, and give Aſſiſtance and Concurrence therein; and, if Need be, to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy and ſpeedy Redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other Matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above mentioned: And, in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the ſame; declaring, that in, and for all their Actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Commiſſioners particularly to obſerve the Acts of the General Aſſemblies 1712, and 1719, reſpecting the Application of the public Money; which two Acts are printed among the Acts of Aſſembly 1761. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the ſaid Commiſſion, and Abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Aſſembly held in the Year One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a *Quorum*,

rum, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, or any other Presbytery within twelve Miles thereof, to meet on any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meetings of this Commission; and such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required all of them to give Attendance on the Diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have four or more Members on the Commission, are to take Care, that at least two of them attend each Diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first Meeting, to discuss as many of the Causes and Questions relative to the Settlement of vacant Churches, which are, or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery, or Synod of this Church, shall decline to comply with the Sentences of the Commission, or to give the same a full Execution, in that Case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent Meetings, as has been sometimes the Practice; but shall allow the same to ly over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their Conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their Reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further impower and direct the said Commission, to make due Application to the King and Parliament, for Redress of the Grievance of Patronage, in case a favourable Opportunity for so doing shall occur during the Subsistence of this Commission. And the General Assembly do enjoyn their Commission, that in passing their Sentences, and in ordering the Execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly 1736.

VI.

Act declaring Mr *James Bain*, late Miniſter at *Paiſley*, incapable of receiving or accepting a Preſentation or Call to any Pariſh in this Church, without the ſpecial Allowance of the General ſlembly.

At *Edinburgh* the twenty-ſeventh Day of *May*, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-ſix Years.

THE which Day the General Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland* had tranſmitted to them from their Committee for Bills, a Petition for Meſſrs *Warner*, *Davidſon*, and *Kennedy*, Miniſters in the Presbytery of *Paiſley*, tabling an Appeal taken by them in Name of ſaid Presbytery, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air*; by which Sentence, the ſaid Synod had accepted of a Demiſſion from Mr *James Bain* one of the Miniſters of *Paiſley*, and declared his Kirk vacant; and appointed the Presbytery of *Paiſley* to meet on the twenty-third Day of *April*, in order to receive any Application that might be made to them for the ſupply of the ſaid Vacancy. Which Petition ſets furth, That the Presbytery of *Paiſley* had laid before them a Letter from Mr *James Bain* one of the Miniſters of *Paiſley*, bearing a Demiſſion of his Office and Charge as Miniſter of *Paiſley*, upon the twenty-ſixth Day of *March* laſt. The Presbytery, by their Deliverance of that Date, delayed the further Conſideration of that Affair until the twenty-third Day of *April*, in order that Mr *Bain* might be heard upon that Subject before final Sentence was paſt, and ordered a Letter to be wrote to the ſaid Mr *Bain*, requiring him to attend upon the ſaid twenty-third Day of *April*. Againſt which Sentence the Magiſtrates of *Paiſley* proteſted, and appealed to the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air*. That the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air* ſuſtained the ſaid Appeal, accepting of ſaid Demiſſion, declared his Kirk vacant, and appointed the Presbytery of *Paiſley* to meet on the twenty-third Day of *April*, in order to receive any Application that might be made

made to them for the Supply of the said Vacancy. That the Petitioners, by Virtue of Powers from the Presbytery of *Paisley*, who considered Mr *Bain*'s Conduct to be very irregular, protested against the said Sentence of Synod, and appealed to the Venerable Assembly for Redress, and praying that it might please the Venerable Assembly to take in the said Appeal, reverse the Judgment of the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, and take such further Steps in it as to their Wisdom shall seem meet, and as the very great Importance of the Cause deserved. *As also*, Another Petition from the Magistrates and Town-Council of *Paisley*, complaining of the Presbytery's not having met upon the said twenty-third of *April*, in Terms of the Synod's Sentence, and praying for Redress in such Manner as the Venerable Assembly should judge proper. The Moderator being a Member of the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, Dr *Oswald*, at the Assembly's Desire, took the Chair. Parties being called, there compeared for the Appellants, the said Messrs *Warner*, *Davidson*, and *Kennedy*; for the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, Messrs *Dun*, *Freebairn*, and Mr *Colin Campbell*; and for the Town of *Paisley*, Mr *Joseph Williamson* Advocate: The Letter of Demission by the said Mr *James Bain* to the Moderator of the Presbytery of *Paisley* was called for and read; the Sentence of the Synod appealed from; the Petition of Appeal, and Reasons, and Answers by the Synod to the said Petition of Appeal and Reasons, together with the Petition of the Magistrates of *Paisley*, were all read over; and Parties being fully heard at the Bar, were removed: The General Assembly, after some reasoning on this Affair, ordained that the said Mr *James Bain* be summoned to appear before them upon *Thursday* next, in the New Church Ile, at Ten o'Clock, in order to answer for his Conduct in giving up his Ministerial Charge at *Paisley*, and appointed their Clerk to issue out an Order upon one of their Officers for this Purpose, who should deliver the Summons to the said Mr *James Bain* personally, or at his Dwelling-House, and should return a written Execution thereupon; and in the mean Time the Assembly delayed proceeding any further in the Affair till that Diet, and Parties were then ordered to attend: Parties were called in, and the above Sentence was intimated to them. At *Edinburgh* the twenty-ninth Day of *May*, One thousand seven hundred and sixty-six Years, the General Assembly proceeded to the Determination of the Cause of *Paisley*, in Consequence of their Resolution of *Tuesday* last; and the Cause being called, Parties compeared as formerly: The General Assembly called for the Execution of Citation against Mr *James Bain*, which was produced and read, bearing him to have been summoned personally; and Mr *Bain*

having appeared perſonally at the Bar, was heard; the Letter of Demiſſion by him to the Preſbytery of *Paiſley* was read, the Tenor whereof follows: Reverend dear Sir, It would have given me great Pleaſure to have met with my Brethren of the Presbytery of *Paiſley*, as it would have given me an opportunity of acquainting them with what I now inform you of, as their Moderator, to be laid before them, *viz.* That I entirely give up my Charge of the High Church in this Town, and the Care of the Flock belonging to it, into the Presbytery's Hand. They know not how far I am advanced in Life, who ſee not that an Houſe for Worſhip, ſo very large as the High Church, and commonly ſo crouded too, muſt be very unequal to my Strength; and this Burden was made more heavy by denying me a Seſſion to aſſiſt me in the common Concerns of the Pariſh, which I certainly had a Title to; nor am I ſingular in thinking ſo, as I have the Opinion of the firſt Judge of the Kingdom, that it was peeviſh to refuſe it: But the Load became quite intolerable, when, by a late unhappy Proceſs, the juſt and natural Right of the common Seſſion was wreſted from us, which drove away from ſitting in it twelve men of excellent Character, ſo that I had not one Elder for five hundred of examinable Perſons in my Proportion; nor does it alleviate the Burden, that this Right of the Seſſion was ſo tamely given up (ſome perhaps will ſay betrayed) by thoſe who ought to have defended it: For in any Society where Candour is thought to be gone, Confidence muſt die. I would earneſtly beg of my very Reverend Brethren to think that this Change of my Condition, and the Charge I have now accepted, makes no Change in my former Creed and Chriſtian Belief, none in my Principles of Chriſtian and Miniſterial Communion, nay none in my cordial Regard to the Conſtitution and Intereſt of the Church of *Scotland*, which I ſolemnly engaged to ſupport ſome more than thirty Years ago, and hope to do ſo while I live. At the ſame Time I abhor Perſecution in every Form, and that Abuſe of Church Power of late, which to me appears inconſiſtent with Humanity, with the civil Intereſts of the Nation, and deſtructive of the Ends of our Office as Miniſters of CHRIST. I would only add, and aſſure my Brethren, that I go away with a grateful Senſe of their Civilities to me while among them: As a ſmall Recompence, it is my heart's Deſire to GOD, That they and their Flocks may proſper, and they may be directed to promote a ſpeedy and comfortable Settlement of a Paſtor over that very numerous and affectionate People, who are now my Charge no more. With Eſteem I am, Reverend dear Sir, *&c.* Then the Parties were removed. The Moderator being a Member of the Synod of

Glaſgow

Glasgow and *Air*, Dr *Oswald*, at the Assembly's Desire, took the Chair. The General Assembly determined the Cause anent the Vacancy of the Parish; and then, the Moderator having resumed the Chair, proceeded to take under their Consideration Mr *Bain*'s Conduct, and what is contained in his Letter: And he being called upon, was further heard, and again removed; and, after a very long Debate, a Motion was made by a Member to the following Purpose: 1*mo*, That the Assembly should declare him to be no Minister of this Church; and that he is incapable of receiving or accepting of a Presentation or Call to any Parish in this Church, without the special Allowance of some future General Assembly. And, 2*do*, That the General Assembly should prohibit all the Ministers of this Church from employing him to preach, or perform any Ministerial Offices for them, or from being employed by him, unless some future Assembly shall see Cause to take off this Prohibition. The General Assembly, after deliberating upon the above Motion, agreed to the first Part thereof without a Vote; But, Members being divided in their Opinions with Regard to the second Part of the Motion, the General Assembly came to the following State of a Vote, *Agree* to the last Part of the Motion, or *Not;* and the Rolls being called, and Votes marked, it carried by a great Majority *Agree:* And therefore, the General Assembly *Find* and *declare* That the said Mr *James Bain* is no Minister of this Church, and that he is incapable of receiving or accepting of a Presentation or Call to any Parish in this Church, without the special Allowance of some future General Assembly. And the General Assembly do hereby prohibit all the Members of this Church from employing him to preach or perform any Ministerial Offices for them, or from being employed by him, unless some future Assembly shall see Cause to take off this Prohibition. Mr *Bain* being called in, the above Sentence was intimated to him.

VII.

Act anent the Form of Commiſſions.

THE General Aſſembly having had laid before them the Report of a Committee appointed to reviſe the Forms of Commiſſions to Members of the General Aſſembly, and conſidering that it is of the greateſt Importance for the Honour and Intereſt of Religion, that the Office-bearers of the Church ſhould behave and conduct themſelves in all Reſpects becoming their Character, do, in Terms of the Act of Aſſembly 22*d May* 1722, earneſtly beſeech, exhort, and require all Miniſters to take Heed to themſelves, and to their Doctrine, and to be exemplary to their People in Sobriety, Righteouſneſs, and Holineſs, abſtaining from all Appearance of Evil: And in like Manner, the General Aſſembly do earneſtly beſeech, exhort, and require the Elders and Deacons to be faithful in the Diſcharge of their reſpective Offices, tender and circumſpect in their Walk, punctual in their attending upon Ordinances, ſtrict in their Obſervation of the Lord's Day, and regular in keeping up the Worſhip of GOD in their Families. The Aſſembly do further enjoin and require, for the more regular Election of Members to the Aſſembly in Time coming, Presbyteries, Burghs, and Univerſities, ſtrictly to obſerve the Acts of former Aſſemblies, appointing that the Election ſhall be made at leaſt forty Days before the Meeting of Aſſembly, and within a Month preceeding the firſt of the ſaid forty Days, except thoſe lying in the Northern and Weſtern Iſles, and ſhall appoint the Day of Election at a Meeting to be entered in their Minutes, at leaſt ten free Days before ſuch Election; and that on the Day of Election, they ſhall make their Elections betwixt the Hours of One and eight o'Clock in the Evening.

The General Aſſembly conſidering alſo that ſome Acts regulating the Manner and Time of electing Members to the Aſſembly are poſterior to the Act 17th *May* 1725, eſtabliſhing the preſent Form of their Commiſſions; and that theſe Forms refer in general to Acts of Aſſembly that contain ſome Particulars, of which Presbyteries, Univerſities, and Burghs cannot have any certain Evidence, and are thereby reduced to the Neceſſity either of atteſting what does not come

come properly under their own Knowledge, or of omitting Clauses in the established Form, whereby their Commissions have been rendered void and null, the Assembly did on all these Accounts, and hereby do appoint and ordain the Forms of Commissions and Attestations, hereunto subjoined, to be observed by Presbyteries, Sessions, Universities, and Burghs; and enact and ordain, That all such Commissions and Attestations as are not conceived and attested in these very Words of the Form now prescribed shall be rejected.

The General Assembly do further declare and enact, That when a Kirk Session or Presbytery refuse their Concurrence or Attestation to a Commission by a Burgh or University, without assigning the Reasons of their Refusal, that Commissioners shall be sustained as if duly attested, in case the Matter shall be brought before the Assembly by Protest or Appeal. And they appoint the Agent for the Church to cause print this Act, together with the following Forms of Commissions, and transmit the same to the several Presbyteries, Universities, and Burghs.

Form of COMMISSIONS *by Presbyteries.*

At the Day of Years. THE which Day the Presbytery of being conveened betwixt the Hours of One and Eight o'Clock in the Evening, in Order to elect their Representatives to the ensuing Assembly, pursuant to a Resolution entered into their Minutes on the day of Did, and hereby do nominate and appoint Mr Minister at and Mr Minister at and and Ruling Elders, their Commissioners to the next General Assembly of this Church, indicted to meet at the Day of next to come, or when and where it shall happen to sit, willing them to repair thereto, and to attend all the Diets of the same, and there to consult, vote, and determine in all Matters that come before them, to the Glory of GOD and the Good of his Church, according to the Word of GOD, the Confession of Faith, and agreeable to the Constitutions of this Church, as they will be answerable; and that they report their Diligence therein at their Return therefrom. And the said Presbytery does hereby testify and declare, That all the Ministers above named have signed the *Formula*, enjoined by the 10th Act of the Assembly *Anno* 1711, and the Ruling Elders above written have signed the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th Act of the Assembly

1694. And further, that the ſaid Elders are of unblemiſhed Characters, circumſpect in their Walk, regular in giving Attendance on the Ordinances of Divine Inſtitution, and behave in other Reſpects agreeable to their Office, All which the Presbytery have hereby atteſted on proper Information.

ATTESTATION.

At the Day of Years. THE which Day the Presbytery of having had the above Extract of their Commiſſion to their Repreſentatives in the enſuing Aſſembly laid before them, they cauſed it to be read, and having reviſed and conſidered the ſame, they did approve thereof. Atteſted by *A. B.* Moderator.

or Cls.

Form of COMMISSIONS *from Univerſities.*

At the Day of Years. THE which Day, the Principal, Profeſſors, Maſters, and other Members of the Univerſity of having Right to elect, being conveened betwixt the Hours of One and Eight o'Clock in the Evening, in Order to elect their Repreſentative to the enſuing Aſſembly, purſuant to a Reſolution entered into their Minutes on the Day of did and hereby do, nominate and appoint their Commiſſioner to the next General Aſſembly of this Church, indicted to meet at the Day of next to come, or when and where it ſhall happen to ſit, willing him to repair thereto, and to attend all the Diets of the ſame, and there to conſult, vote, and determine in all Matters that come before them, to the Glory of GOD, and the Good of his Church, according to the Word of GOD, the Confeſſion of Faith, and agreeable to the Conſtitution of this Church, as he will be anſwerable; and that he report his Diligence therein at his Return therefrom. And it is hereby teſtifyed and declared, That the ſaid is a Miniſter, or (an Elder) of this Church, lawfully ordained, and hath ſigned the *Formula* enjoin'd by the 10th Act of the Aſſembly, *anno* 1711; or (if an Elder) hath ſign'd the *Formula* preſcribed by the 11th Act of the Aſſembly 1694. And further, that the ſaid Commiſſioner

Commissioner is every other Way qualified to be a Member of the Assembly, according to the Acts of the Assembly; and (if an Elder, it must be said) and in particular, he is of an unblemished Character, circumspect in his Walk, regular in giving Attendance on the Ordinances of Divine Institution, and behaves in other Respects agreeable to his Office. All which the University have hereby attested on proper Information. Extracted by *C. D.*

ATTESTATION.

At the Day of Years. THE which Day the Presbytery of having had before them a Commission given by the University of to to represent the said University in the ensuing General Assembly of this National Church, do, in Terms of the 4th Act of Assembly 1720, the 7th Act of Assembly 1723, and 4th Act of Assembly 1724, testify and declare, that the said is a Minister or (an Elder) lawfully ordained; that he has signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 10th Act of Assembly 1711; or (if an Elder) hath signed the *Formula* prescrib'd by the 11th Act of Assembly 1694; and that he is a Master of the said University, or

And further, That the said Commissioner is every other way qualified to be a Member of the Assembly, according to the Acts of Assembly. This signed by

A. B. Moderator.

Form of COMMISSIONS *from Burghs.*

At the Day of Years. THE which Day the Magistrates and Town-Council of being conveened in Council, betwixt the Hours of One and Eight o'Clock in the Evening, in order to elect their Representative to the ensuing Assembly, pursuant to a Resolution entered into their Minutes on the Day of did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint their Commissioner to the next General Assembly of this Church, indicted to meet at the Day of next to come, or when and where it shall happen to sit, willing him to repair thereto, and to attend all the Diets of the same; and there to consult, vote, and determine in all Matters that come before them

them, to the Glory of GOD, and the Good of his Church, according to the Word of GOD, the Confeſſion of Faith, and agreeable to the Conſtitution of this Church, as he will be anſwerable; and that he report his Diligence therein at his Return therefrom. And it is hereby teſtifyed and declared, That the ſaid is an Elder of this Church, lawfully ordained, and hath ſigned the *Formula* enjoined by the 11th Act of Aſſembly 1694, and is every other way qualified to be a Member of Aſſembly, and likewiſe that he is (a Reſidenter in the ſaid Burgh) or (an Heretor in the ſaid Burgh) or (an Heretor in the Bounds of the Presbytery of within which the ſaid Burgh lies) or (has formerly reſided and officiated as an Elder in the ſaid Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the ſaid Burgh doth ly, according to the Acts of Aſſembly; and, in particular, that he is of an unblemiſhed Character, circumſpect in his Walk, regular in giving Attendance on the Ordinances of Divine Inſtitutition, and behaves in other Reſpects agreeable to his Office. All which the Magiſtrates and Town-Council have atteſted on proper Information Extracted by *C. D.* Cls.

ATTESTATION *by the Kirk-Seſſion.*

At the Day of Years. THE which Day the Kirk-Seſſion of having had laid before them a Commiſſion given by the Magiſtrates and Town-Council of to to repreſent the ſaid Burgh in the enſuing General Aſſembly of this National Church, do, in the Terms of the 4th Act of Aſſembly 1720, teſtify and declare, that the ſaid is an Elder lawfully ordained, and that he has ſigned the *Formula* preſcribed by the 11th Act of the General Aſſembly 1694,

Extracted by
A. B. Moderator.
C. D. Cls.

ATTESTATION *by the Presbytery.*

At the Day of Years. THE which Day the Presbytery of having had produced before them a Commiſſion given by the Magiſtrates and Town-Council of to to repreſent the ſaid Burgh in the enſuing General Aſſembly of this National Church

Church, with an Atteſtation of the Kirk-Seſſion of the ſaid Burgh, conform to the Direction of the Act 9th of Aſſembly 1718, Act 4th Aſſembly 1720, and Act 4th Aſſembly 1724, do, in the Terms of the foreſaid Acts, likewiſe teſtify and declare, that the ſaid is an Elder lawfully ordained, and that he has ſigned the *Formula* preſcribed by the 11th Act of Aſſembly 1694; and likeways, that he is (a Reſidenter in the Burgh) or (an Heretor in the ſaid burgh) or (an Heretor in the Bounds of the Presbytery of within which the ſaid Burgh lies) or (has formerly reſided and officiated as an Elder in the ſaid Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the ſaid Burgh does ly); and further, that the ſaid Commiſſioner is every other way qualified to be a Member of the Aſſembly, according to the Acts of Aſſembly. This ſigned by *A. B.* Moderator.

VIII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Aſſembly.

THE next General Aſſembly of this National Church is appointed to be held in this Place on *Thurſday* the twenty-firſt of *May*, in the Year One Thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-ſeven.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Aſſembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, *Cls. Ecc. Scot.*

Overture anent Tranſmiſſion of all the former Overtures.

UPON Report from the Committee for Overtures, tranſmitted by the laſt and preceeding Aſſemblies, the General Aſſembly agreed, that all theſe be again tranſmitted, and do hereby appoint, that ſuch Presbyteries as have not yet ſent up their Opinions concerning them, do ſend up the ſame to the next General Aſſembly. The Overtures are theſe: 1*mo*, Anent ſending up Opinions on Overtures tranſmitted by the Aſſembly. 2*do*, For repealing that Part of the Form of Proceſſes anent Exculpations. 3*tio*, Anent Members of inferior Courts judging in Cauſes appealed from them; and that the Report concerning them be brought into an earlier Diet of the Aſſembly.

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Index or Abridgment

OF THE

Actings and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, held in the Year 1766, which are not printed at full Length.

May 22. 1766. *Sess.* 1.

AFTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr *James Oswald* Minister of the Gospel at *Methven*, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of the Assembly, did conveen in the Assembly-House, and the Reverend Mr *John Hamilton*, one of the Ministers of the City of *Glasgow*, being chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire took the Chair.

The King's Commission to *John* Earl of *Glasgow* to represent His Majesty's Royal Person in this Assembly read, and recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly read, and recorded.

The Commissioner's Speech at opening this Assembly; and the Moderator's Speech in return thereto.

His Majesty's Royal Warrant of *L.*1000 *Sterling* delivered into the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring Absents from the Diets thereof; naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner; receiving in Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in Order to their being recorded.

Committee for Overtures named.

Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals named,

Remit to the Committee for preparing an Answer to the King's Letter, to bring in an Overture concerning the timeous Distribution of Cases, respecting Affairs to be before the Assembly.

May 23. 1766. *Seſſ.* 2.

A Diet ſpent in Prayer.

The Act 17th of the Aſſembly 1718, for the better Diſpatch of the Buſineſs of Aſſembly, read, and the Obſervation thereof enjoined.

Miniſters named to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner.

May 24. 1766. *Seſſ.* 3.

The Draught of an Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly brought in and approven; and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's Requeſt, undertakes to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The Report of the Committee for reviſing Commiſſions produced and read. The General Aſſembly proceeded to the Conſideration of the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of *Paiſley*, and Dr *Witherſpoon*'s Proteſt there-againſt. A Debate having ariſen among the Members, Whether Dr *Witherſpoon*'s Proteſt, and the Matter contained therein, was properly before the Aſſembly, or not? The Aſſembly, by a Vote, found it competent to take in this Affair; and, in order to have this Matter fully before them, appoints their Committee for Bills to meet in their uſual Place on *Monday* Morning, at Nine o'Clock, in order to receive in an Appeal of the Preſbytery of *Paiſley*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Ayr*, and all other Papers relative to this Matter: And the Aſſembly reſolves to conſider this whole Affair at their Diet on *Monday* next.

May 26. 1766. *Seſſ.* 4.

A Committee named to conſider a Repreſentation of the Preſbytery of *Meigle*, and to report.

A Committee named to reviſe the Regiſter of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly, audite the Procurator and Agent's Accompts, conſider the State of the public Money, and prepare Overtures about the ſame.

A Committee named to reviſe the Regiſter of the Committee named by laſt Aſſembly for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*.

Committees named for reviſing the Synod Books of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, *Dumfries*, and *Perth* and *Stirling*.

The Synod Books of *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs*, *Orkney*, *Lothian* and *Tweedale*, *Galloway* *Glaſgow* and *Ayr*, *Argyle*, *Fife*, *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Aberdeen*, *Murray*, *Roſs*, *Glenelg*, and the Preſbytery Book of *Zetland*, abſent. Reſolved, that the Reaſons thereof be inquired into.

The

The Appeal of the Presbytery of *Paiſley* againſt the Sentence of the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Ayr*, heard; and the Synod's Sentence affirmed in both Parts: The firſt Part finding a Cauſe in the Caſe of *William Turner*, who had been elected by the Seſſion of *Greenock*, as their Elder to repreſent them in the ſaid Presbytery, and was refuſed by them to be put upon the Roll: And the ſecond, ordaining *William Turner* to be put upon the Roll of the Presbytery, as an Elder duly elected by the Kirk-ſeſſion of *Greenock*.

The Commiſſion from the ſaid Presbytery to their Repreſentatives of this Aſſembly, conſidered; and, in reſpect of their excluding a conſtituent Member from voting in their Election, their Commiſſion is declared void and null; and the Members Names ordered to be ſcored out of the Roll of Aſſembly.

A new Committee named to conſider the other Parts of the Report upon the Commiſſions, and prepare and bring in an Overture thereupon to this Aſſembly.

The Committee for Overtures appointed to receive in from the ſeveral Members any Inſtructions given to them by their reſpective Synods or Presbyteries, claſs the Matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereupon to the Aſſembly.

The Cauſe anent the Trials of Mr *Wells* referred to the Commiſſion, with full Power to them to judge, and finally determine therein.

Reſolve anent taking in Cauſes.

May 27. 1766. *Seſſ.* 5.

The new Committee named for reviſing the Report upon the Commiſſions, and preparing an Overture thereon, ordered to meet at the Riſing of this Sederunt; and to bring in their Report to the Aſſembly To-morrow; at which Time, the Aſſembly reſolves to conſider the Objection to the Commiſſion from the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, and, after it, the other Parts of the ſaid Report.

The Report of the Committee appointed by laſt General Aſſembly to conſider the Overture anent the Cauſes and Growth of Schiſm called for. The Report given in and read: The Aſſembly remits the ſaid Overture, and Report thereon, to the Committee of Overtures, in order to conſider the ſame, and report thereupon to this Aſſembly.

An Appeal of Meſſrs *Warner*, *Davidſon*, and *Kennedy*, Miniſters of the Presbytery of *Paiſley*, in name of ſaid Preſbytery, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Ayr*, accepting of a Demiſſion from Mr *James Bain*, one of the Miniſters of *Paiſley*, and declaring his Kirk vacant, and appointing

appointing the Presbytery of *Paiſley* to meet on the 23d of *April*, in order to receive any Application that might be made to them for the Supply of the ſaid Vacancy, heard. The Aſſembly ordains Mr *Bain* to be ſummoned to appear before them upon *Thurſday* next, in the New Church Iſle, at Ten o'Clock, in order to anſwer for his Conduct in giving up his miniſterial Charge at *Paiſley*; and appoint their Clerk to iſſue out an Order upon one of their Officers for this Purpoſe, who ſhall deliver the Summons to the ſaid Mr *James Bain* perſonally, or at his Dwelling-houſe, and ſhall return a written Execution thereupon. And, in the mean Time, the Aſſembly delays proceeding any further in the Affair till that Diet.

May 28. 1766. *Seſſ.* 6.

The Report of the Committee, appointed to reviſe and conſider the Report of the Committee upon Commiſſions, was produced and read over; and thereupon the Commiſſion from the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, *&c.* was ſuſtained.

The Overture and Report of the Committee anent the Cauſe and Growth of Schiſm being called for, was produced and read over. The General Aſſembly reſolves to take up and conſider this Matter on *Friday* firſt.

An Appeal of his Grace the Duke of *Roxburgh*, Patron of the Pariſh of *Dunbar*, the Magiſtrates and Town-council of *Dunbar*, and others, Callers of Mr *George Bruce*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweedale*, refuſing to proceed to the Settlement of the ſaid Mr *George Bruce* at *Dunbar*, and referring the ſame to this Aſſembly, heard; and the Presbytery of *Dunbar* appointed to proceed to the Settlement of Mr *Bruce* as Miniſter of the Pariſh of *Dunbar*, with all convenient Speed, according to the Rules of the Church.

May 29. 1766. *Seſſ.* 7.

The Synod Book of *Fife* produced, and a Committee appointed to reviſe the ſame.

The Commiſſion from the Burgh of *Montroſe* rejected, it being found that the Perſon choſen had not that Relation to the Burgh or Presbytery, which the Acts of Aſſembly require.

A Committee appointed to conſider an Application of the Heretors, Elders, and Heads of Families of the perambulated Bounds of *Norryſtown*, for a new Erection, and the Accounts of the Presbytery of *Dumblane*, and to report.

The Report of the Committee appointed by laſt General Aſſembly, to conſider the Overture anent the incloſing of Miniſters Glebes, *&c.* being called for, was produced and read

read over; and the Aſſembly refers the ſame to their Commiſſion.

The Conſideration of the Cauſe of *Paiſley* reſumed: The Execution of Citation againſt Mr *Bain* being called for, was produced and read, bearing him to have been perſonally ſummoned; and Mr *Bain* appearing perſonally at the Bar, was heard, and his Letter of Demiſſion read. The Aſſembly finds, That the Presbytery of *Paiſley* did nothing improper in their Delay of the 26th Day of *March* laſt; and therefore the Appeal from them was unneceſſary: But in regard that Mr *Bain*'s Letter to the Presbytery of *Paiſley*, dated the 10th of *February* laſt, is now before the Aſſembly, the General Aſſembly declares the Church of *Paiſley* to have been vacant from the 26th Day of *March* laſt, the Time the ſaid Letter was given in to the Presbytery; reſerving to themſelves the full Conſideration of any Irregularity in Mr *Bain*'s Conduct, or in the Expreſſions of his Letter.

Reſolve anent taking in Cauſes.

May 30. 1766. *Seſſ.* 8.

The Procurator and Agents Accompts, with the Report of the Committee thereupon, brought in, and ordered to lye on the Table till another Diet.

The Members from the ſeveral Synods appointed to meet among themſelves, in order to bring in a Liſt of the Nominators of the Commiſſion, according to the 6th Act of Aſſembly 1705.

The Moderator produced a Letter from General *Murray*, Governor of *Canada*, directed to him, relating to the great Fire that happened at *Montreal* in *May* laſt; together with an atteſted Account of the Loſs ſuſtained by that Fire, under the Hands of the proper Officer, and Seal of the Iſland appended, craving a Collection through the Churches of *Scotland*. The General Aſſembly having conſidered ſaid Application, rejected the ſame, and appointed the Moderator to write a reſpectful Letter to General *Murray*.

There was produced a Memorial from the Preſbyterian Church at *New-York*, praying the Intereſt of this Aſſembly at the Court of *London*, for a Royal Mandate to his Majeſty's Governor and Council there, to grant the Congregation a Charter of Incorporation for the Uſes ſpecified in the Copy of ſaid Charter lying before the Aſſembly. The Aſſembly appointed a Committee to conſider the ſaid Memorial, and to report.

The Overture anent the Cauſes and Growth of Schiſm, with the Committee's Report thereupon, conſidered; and, after a long Debate, the ſaid Overture rejected.

May 31. 1766. *Seſſ.* 9.

An Application for Dr *David Dickſon*, for a Meeting of the Committee of Bills, read, and the Conſideration thereof delayed.

Upon a Letter from Dr *George Wiſhart* principal Clerk of Aſſembly, his Abſence this Day is excuſed, and Mr *Archibald Stevenſon* Miniſter in *St Madoes* appointed to officiate in his Place.

The Moderator of the Committee of Bills moved for a Meeting of that Committee, at the Deſire of Dr *David Dickſon*; which Deſire the Aſſembly refuſed, in regard Dr *Dickſon* had not applied within the Time limited by the Acts of Aſſembly.

The Report of the Viſitors of the Commiſſion Book given in and read, and the Commiſſion's Conduct approven of. The Aſſembly's Thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commiſſion, for their Faithfulneſs and Diligence in the Affairs committed to them, and their Book ordered to be atteſted.

Act approving of the Accompt of Mr *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, his Intromiſſions with his Majeſty's Allowances for defraying the public Charges of the Church for *Lady-day*, *Mid-ſummer*, *Michaelmas*, and *Chriſtmas*, 1765; and appointing the Balance of *L.* 276 : 6 : 10⅓ *Sterling* in his Hands, to be charged in his next Accompt.

Act approving the Accompt of *James Edmonſtone*, Agent for the Church, and Sub-clerk to the General Aſſembly; and appointing that he have Credit in his next Accompt for the Sum of *L.* 51 : 19 : 1 *Sterling*, being the balance due to him.

The Report of the Committee named to conſider the Applications for Shares of the public Money, given in and read; together with the Procurator's Opinion thereon, and laying before the Aſſembly a State of the public Fund of the Church, and of the Amount of the Debt. Upon the firſt Part of the Report, *viz.* concerning Petitions tranſmitted, the Aſſembly appointed the following Perſons Creditors on the public Fund, for the Sums after-mentioned, to become due to them, after the Debts already contracted upon the Funds are cleared, *viz.*

Mr *John Lumiſden* Miniſter at *Strathdon*, for *L.* 26. Ten Pound whereof to be paid him inſtantly.

Mr

Mr *John Likely* Miniſter at *Old Meldrum* - *L.* 10 0 0
Mr *William Anderſon* Miniſter at *Manner* - 10 0 0
Mr *George Nicol* Miniſter at *Kinnettles* - 10 0 0
Mr *Adam Fergusſon* Miniſter at *Moulin*, in caſe he does not get Coſts of Suit - - 10 0 0

The Report of the Truſtees for the Widows Fund was given in, and ordered to lye on the Table till another Diet.

The Report of the Committee appointed to conſider the Repreſentation from the Presbytery of *Meigle* produced and approven of, and the Opinion and Overture of the Committee agreed to, *viz.* That the Suppreſſing of the ſmall Pariſh of *Ruthven*, and annexing it to contiguous Pariſhes; and that the Diſmembering of Parts of the five Pariſhes of *Alyth*, *Bendochie*, *Blairgowrie*, *Rattray*, and *Caputh*, and getting them united, and erected into a diſtinct and ſeparate Pariſh, would be for the Intereſt of Religion in theſe Bounds. And therefore it is recommended to the Presbytery of *Meigle*, to ſettle and adjuſt, with all Parties having Intereſt, the Scheme propoſed; to procure from the Ceſs Books a Certificate of the total Valuation of each Pariſh, and the Proportion thereof belonging to the ſeveral Conſenters; and to aſcertain other Facts contained in the Memorial: And they are required to tranſmit theſe Materials to the Agent for the Church, to be laid before the Procurator, who is appointed to draw out the proper Summons, and carry on the proceſs at the public Expence: But if Oppoſition is likely to happen, or the Expence of Proceſs ſhall exceed the Sum of *L.* 30 *Sterl.* he is to lay the Matter before the Commiſſion, or the next General Aſſembly.

The Report of the Committee appointed to conſider the Petition of the whole Heads of Families within the perambulated Bounds of *Norrieſtown*, given in, and their Opinion agreed to; and accordingly it is appointed, that the Allowance to a Schoolmaſter there be withdrawn, and a Preacher be ſettled there, and ordained; and he be under the Direction of the Preſbytery of *Dumblane*. And it is remitted to the Committee, to conſider the State of the Funds, and to report upon *Monday* next.

The Report of the Committee appointed to conſider the Application from the Presbyterian Church at *New-York*, given in; the Deſire of the ſaid Church is granted, (*vid. Seſſ.* 8.); and the Miniſters of *Edinburgh*, Sollicitor *Dundaſs*, Mr *Crosbie*, Mr *Wight*, Advocates, named as Commiſſioners, with full Powers of executing the Purpoſes of the ſaid Application.

A Petition aud Complaint of Mr *George Trail* Miniſter at *Dunnet*; a Petition for Mr *John Scollay* and Mr *Jerom Denuiſon*, and a Repreſentation of the Synod of *Caithneſs* and *Sutherland*; all reſpecting Mr *Thomas Lyell* Miniſter at *Sandy*, read and conſidered by the Aſſembly. The Aſſembly fonnd the Libel given in by the Presbytery of *North-Iſles*, *ex facie* irrelevant and improper, and therefore diſmiſſed the ſame, and found the whole Proceedings thereon void and null, in reſpect of their great irregularity: And, as Mr *Trail* had now appeared and offered to inſiſt in a Libel againſt Mr *Lyell*, the General Aſſembly agreed to receive that Libel, and appointed it to be ſerved upon Mr *Lyel quam primum*, and him to give in Anſwers againſt the Day to be appointed for the Meeting of the Commiſſion in *Auguſt*, and impowered that, or any ſubſequent Meeting of the Commiſſion, to jndge of the relevancy of that Libel, and every other Queſtion that might occur concerning that Affair; and authoriſes them to grant Commiſſions for taking a Proof, and to cognoſce and finally determine in this Matter, or to refer the ſame to the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhould ſee Cauſe. Aud further appointed the Commiſſion to inquire, Why the Appointment of the laſt General Aſſembly, wirh reſpect to the libelling of Mr *Lyell*, was not punctually obeyed, and to cite the Presbytery, or any particular Member thereof, to the Bar of the Aſſembly, if they ſhould ſee Cauſe. And impowered the Commiſſion to give Mr *Trail* what Money might be neceſſary for carrying on the Cauſe, out of the Public Fund of the Church.

The Libel againſt Mr *Scollay*, and whole procedure had thereon, likewiſe referred to the Commiſſion.

A Reference from the Presbytery of *Glaſgow* anent a new Seſſion read. The General Aſſembly appointed the Presbytery of *Glaſgow* to authoriſe Mr *Ballantyne* with his Brethren, the Miniſters of the City of *Glaſgow*, the Principal, the Profeſſor of Divinity, and Mr *Lawrence Hill* Miniſter, as a Committee of Presbytery to agree upon a Nomination of proper Perſons to be Members of Seſſion for the new erected Church of *Glaſgow*, called the *Wynd Church*: And when that Nomination is agreed on by the faid Committee, that Mr *Ballantyne* ſhall ſerve their Edict from his Pulpit in the ſaid Wynd-Church; and thereafter Mr *Ballantyne*, with the Committee, or any two of them, ſhall ordain the Perſons nominated to be Members of Seſſion in the Wynd-Church, and to have the overſight of that Pariſh.

A Committee appointed to consider a Reference from the Presbytery of *Dalkeith*, anent the School of *Fala*, and to report.

Resolve anent taking in Causes.

2d of June 1766. *Sess. ult.*

A Committee named to prepare an Overture anent the licensing of Probationers, and appointed to give in the same to the Commission, to be by them ripened for the next Assembly.

A Committee named to consider an Overture anent the Method of settling Parishes, in Case of the Rights falling into the Hands of the Presbytery *jure devoluto*, and to give in their Opinion to the Commission.

The Committee formerly named to consider the Affair of the Schoolmaster of *Fala* appointed to give in their Report to the Commission.

The Report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty Register given in and read, the conduct of the Managers approven of, and their Book ordered to be attested.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this Year, with the Commission, and Instructions to them.

The Report of the Committee for naming the Members of the Commission, and drawing up Instructions to them, brought in and approven.

The Report of the Trustees for managing the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, *&c.* containing a State of the Fund, and their Management; and an Account of their Proceedngs since last Assembly being called for, was read, and approven of, and ordered to be recorded in the separate Register kept for that Purpose.

The Synod Book of *Fife* attested.

The Synod Book of *Dumfries* attested.

The Synod Book of *Perth* and *Stirling* attested.

The Revisors of the Synod Book of *Merse* and *Teviotdale* not being ready to make their Report, are ordered to give in the same to the Commission.

The several Synods, whose Books were absent, ordered to send up the same to next Assembly.

A Letter from the Presbytery of *Uist* produced and read, and the Consideration thereof referred to the Commission.

The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the *Norryston* Accompts given in and approven of, and the Preacher allowed 700 merks at present; but the Commission impowered, upon their finding the Fund to amount to 1200 Merks to allow the Preacher 50 *l.* of Salary.

The Report of the Committee on the Window-tax given in and approven of and their Opinion agreed to, concerning the Importance of having a fixed Agent at *London*, for attending to, and giving timeous Information concerning ſuch Affairs there as may concern this Church or its Members; and accordingly *William Gordon* Doctor of Law is made Choice of as the Church's Agent at *London* for the Purpoſe above mentioned, who is to correſpond with the Commiſſion, and with the Procurator on all Affairs which are of conſequence to this Church: And the ſaid Dr *Gordon* is commiſſioned to enquire after an original Copy of Acts of Aſſembly in the Zion College Library, and endeavour to recover the ſame, or an authentic Copy thereof.

An Appeal by the Right Honourable the Earl of *Eglinton*, Patron of the Pariſh of *Eagleſham*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air* for delaying to proceed to the Trials and Settlement of Mr *Clark* as Miniſter of the Pariſh of *Eagleſham*, heard, and the Presbytery of *Glaſgow* appointed to proceed to the Trial and Settlement of Mr *Clark*, as Miniſter of the Pariſh of *Eagleſham* with all convenient Speed according to the Rules of the Church.

A Petition for Mr *Edward Irwine* Miniſter at *Wells*; a Repreſentation from the Presbytery *of Kirkwall*, and another from the Synod of *Caithneſs* and *Sutherland*, all referred to the Commiſſion.

All Cauſes brought before this Aſſembly and not determined by them, referred to the Commiſſion.

Liſt of Probationers produced and ordered to be recorded.

Proteſtations admitted.

A Committee named to reviſe the Minutes of the Aſſembly's Proceedings at this and all other Diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the Acts of the Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding Rules, in order to their being Printed.

The Moderator's Speech to the Aſſembly and His Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

The Lord Commiſſioner's Speech to the Aſſembly.

Act appointing the next Meeting of Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly conluded with Prayer and ſinging of Pſalms

F I N I S.

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ERRATA.

Page 14. Line 24. in place of Mr John Erskine at *Glaſgow*, read Mr John Erskine at *Edinburgh*.